

HERSETH SANDLIN: FEMA SPECIALISTS ON HAND IN ABERDEEN TO HELP SOUTH DAKOTANS PROTECT AGAINST FLOOD DAMAGE

Washington, DC (June 10, 2010) —Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) specialists are in Aberdeen today through June 13 to give South Dakota residents advice on how to protect their homes and businesses from flooding damage. U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin encouraged area residents to visit these specialists, who will be available Thursday through Sunday at Menards and Wal-Mart in Aberdeen. Further details are below.

She noted, “It’s no secret that this area faces a yearly threat of flood damage. These specialists can provide simple and inexpensive steps people can take to protect their homes and businesses.”

The FEMA specialists will offer advice and detailed hand-out information on a wide range of flood-protection projects, including how to raise electrical outlets, circuit breaker boxes, and even furnaces and appliances out of harm’s way, how to protect against sewer backup, and other simple but important home mitigation suggestions.

Flooding has caused significant damage in South Dakota this spring to infrastructure such as roads in addition to crop losses for agricultural producers.

Over the Memorial Day recess Rep. Herseth Sandlin took an aerial tour of the region of the northeast region to view the continuing damage left by the recent spring flooding. This spring, Rep. Herseth Sandlin hosted eight community flood meetings in eastern South Dakota to hear from local officials, farmers, homeowners and others regarding the flooding. And last fall, Rep. Herseth Sandlin hosted USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack to show him flood damage in northeastern South Dakota, as well as discuss the impact of this flooding on agricultural producers and rural communities at a Rural Issues Forum near Bath.

Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. “With many roads still underwater, I remain extremely concerned about the impact flooding is having on our rural communities,” Rep. Herseth Sandlin said. “I continue to work and coordinate with state, federal, and local agencies in order to assist individuals affected by the flooding, and to develop comprehensive mitigation plans that work to improve our long-term ability to manage flooding.”

Rep. Herseth Sandlin urged any South Dakotans with questions about flooding to contact one of her offices or visit the list of resources on her Web site.

FEMA specialists will be available at Menards and Walmart at the following dates and times:

Menards
3821 6th Ave. SE
Aberdeen, SD, 57401
10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, June 10, through June 13

Walmart
3315 6th Ave SE
Aberdeen, SD, 57401
10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 10
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, June 11
Noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, June 12.

More mitigation outreach locations will be announced next week for Brown, Day, Marshall, Roberts and Spink counties.

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